AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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...of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the legislative, executive and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

Steel Barons Use 12-Hour Day for Immigration Propaganda

The nation's steel employers will not abolish the 12-hour day. They say congress has stopped immigration, and they can not find 60,000 additional workers if the three-shift system is adopted.

This is propaganda for free immigration.

With its present force the steel industry is producing ingots at the rate of 50,000,000 tons a year. This is the highest figure ever attained and smashes all previous records.

No one claims that the market can continue to absorb this terrific output for an indefinite period, and yet the steel barons would use the universal protest against their 12-hour day to open the flood gates of southeastern Europe that working standards may be lowered.

Even were these employers correct in their claim, their plea is an indictment of their boasted capacity and ingenuity.

Let them read "Waste in Industry," by a committee of 15 engineers appointed in 1921 by Herbert Hoover. This committee lists the astounding loss of life and property that employers are responsible for.

Millions upon millions of dollars are lost, as are millions upon millions of work days because of preventable causes.

The steel industry contributes to these losses and yet steel employers announce that one of the reasons why they retain the 12-hour day is because they would be short 60,000 workers.

As exploiters of human beings, the steel barons are past masters, but they have no talent or capability to conserve life.

They make no suggestion that lives be saved or that new systems be evolved in their mills to meet present-day social requirements.

Instead, the demand for an end of their inhuman 12-hour day is capitalized by them to secure more cheap labor that present low working standards may be reduced.

This flinty plea for immigrants who would make conditions worse is typically Steel. It comes from industrial autocrats who are interlocked with ore mines, coke ovens, blast furnaces, and other industries that resist the eight-hour day.

The keystone to this resistance is Steel. If Steel abandons the long work day, the entire long work day structure collapses. Then these workers would have time to think of other things than sleep and rest.

The need for 60,000 does not exist. A short time ago there were 6,000,000 unemployed in this country, but the 12-hour day continued.

If steel barons did not have their present excuse they would invent another.

Logic is not expected from employers who say it "is perhaps questionable" that 12-hour men work faster than those to their families than employes working shorter hours.

When men reject a physical impossibility like the above, they are lost to reason and argument.

The worker in their infernos is but a commodity, a thing that should think and act automatically, as water flows when the faucet is turned, or light comes when the electric button is pushed.

There is but one answer to these steel barons — the weather-beaten, storm-tossed trade union that is invincible when 100 per cent organized.

Public opinion is disturbed and the president of the United States is ignored by industrial kings, who must eventually bend their stiff necks before the unity of labor and an increasing social conscience.

If steel employes — or any other workers — believe there is compassion or humanity in Steel, or that these autocrats will listen to reason, let them read their report.

The steel barons clearly indicate that they will not abandon the 12-hour day until they are compelled to.

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

BERRY WINS FIGHT; PLEADS FOR UNITY

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., June 2.—"Let us rededicate ourselves to service in the interest of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union of North America and the allied trade union movement in general."

This is the temper of an article in The American Pressman, signed by George L. Berry, president of the International Pressmen's union, in which he announces that the long internal fight with Chicago pressmen has been adjusted.

President Berry has been the target for many charges the past several years, and even despite federal injunctions against him he has been vindicated completely and the Chicago pressmen have acknowledged their error. Their local union will reaffiliate with the international, they will withdraw all litigation and will pay $45,000 as first installment upon their indebtedness.

In announcing the vindication of himself and associate officers, President Berry indicates that the pressmen should build for the future instead of discussing the past. He says a good feeling now prevails and there is a determination "to develop the highest possible trade union spirit for the common good of the press room workers of that city and the industry in which they are employed."

"The reflections on men's honesty and integrity, which were largely predicated purely upon allegations, have been proven and the honesty and integrity of those accused has been determined by the voluntary act of the Chicago Printing Pressmen's union No. 3 in withdrawing its cases from the courts.

"It is inconceivable that there should be further agitation or conversation that has for its purpose the arousing of antagonism or distrust."

LEASING OF CONVICTS OPPOSED IN ALABAMA

Birmingham, Ala., June 2.—Alabama would have a worse reputation than Florida if the concealed truth about the methods of the convict lease system were known, declared speakers at a meeting held under the auspices of the league of women voters. The abolition of this system was demanded.

W. A. Davis, former member of the Alabama legislature, cited the explosion in the Banner mine, where scores of convicts were against their wills, were killed.

"We are training Alabama girls in a state college at Montevallo with slight of another institution where labor refuses to work. Count the unknown graves in the woods back of the college." he continued. "Count the nine victims were buried if you want to know the death toll of convict labor. Last year there were nearly twice as many accidental deaths of convicts in the mines as were reported in the whole state convict system by pneumonia and tuberculosis combined.

"You can kill a cow at the state penitentiary and John C. Maloney, former member of the Alabama legislature, "requisition another and be told that the first must be paid for, but kill or maim a convict and another is practically instantly available without charge, other than for his work."

PUBLIC GROUP WATCHES RAILROAD VALUATION

Chicago, June 2.—The national conference on valuation of American railroads was formed here, following a meeting of members of congress, governors of states and other public officials and private citizens.

The following officers were chosen: National chairman, Senator La Follette; first national vice chairman, Congressman Hilderbrandt of Alabama; second national vice chairman, Senator Owen of Oklahoma; third national vice chairman, former Governor Gunter of Colorado; secretary, Congressman Logan of South Carolina; treasurer, William H. Johnston, president International Association of Machinists, Washington.

The purpose of the new organization is to defend the people's interests at rate hearings and valuation proceedings before the interstate commerce commission. It is shown that the railroads are always represented. The conference at Chicago is offered to invite all groups of citizens to cooperate.

TRAIL BEHIND.

San Diego, Cal., June 2.—After organized carpenters in this city took chances and raised rates to $8 a day, anti-union carpenters are petitioning employers to raise their rates. They are being paid $6 and $7 a day. Union employers are strong advocates of the individual bargaining plan.

MORE PRISON REFORM.

Raleigh, N. C., June 2.—The North Carolina state prison board has voted to abolish the lash and airless and lightless dungeons. The indeterminate sentences for 1,300 prisoners under state control rel eskewhere.

MORE VALUES PUMPED INTO PUBLIC UTILITIES

Washington, June 2.—Wealth beyond computation has been handed to owners of public utilities of this country by the United States supreme court, which has held that the value of these properties must be based on today's cost of reproduction.

This means that permanent improvements made 25 years ago under a low wage scale, and when material costs were low, will now be valued at today's prices.

In a minority opinion by Justice Brandeis, concurred in by Justice Holmes, it was declared that this system of estimating costs is unstable.

"Obviously each step in the process of estimating the cost of reproduction or replacement involves forming an opinion, or exercising judgment, as distinguished from merely ascertaining facts," says the minority. "And this is true, also, of each step in the process of estimating how much less the existing plant is worth than if it were new."

It is shown that while decisions are supposed to rest upon records of financial transactions, the court, in a previous decision, stated that "every figure * * * that we have set down with delusive exactness" is "speculative."

The minority opinion is a studious exposition of the bewildering and complex situation that confronts those who would estimate costs of public utilities by present day values.

Justice Brandeis is even not impressed with the theory of setting values on the basis of money actually expended. Under this system, "whatever the evidence, there is no attempt to ascertain whether the expenditure was wise or foolish, or whether it was useful or wasteful.

"Historical cost, on the other hand, is the amount which normally should have been paid for all the property which is usefully devoted to the public service. It is, in effect, what is termed the prudent investment. In enterprises originally launched and developed, historical cost and original cost should practically coincide both in terms included and in amounts paid."

The majority decision ignores the amount of money originally invested. Capitalists will use the decision to put greater values on their properties, and thus justify high rates.

REFERENCE TO "CIPHERS" RILES INJUNCTION JUDGE

Memphis, Tenn., June 2.—Federal Judge Ross considers it a more serious offense to attack labor leaders than a mere blow to hold a member of the judiciary up to public scorn.

This was shown when Judge Ross sentenced Editor Cohen of the Labor Review to jail for six months and fined him $1,000 because Cohen published an attack on strikebreakers. The article dealt with strikebreakers as a class, and was along lines of similar articles often printed in the labor press. Judge Ross said this was "provocative" of violence, while no labor editor was treated as a murderer. He was arrested, placed under $5,000 bond, and later sentenced to six months in jail and to pay a fine of $1,000.

Two other case involved the editor of the Memphis Press, who was fined $300 by Judge Ross for contempt of court. The Press editor made a direct attack on the court, who was held up to ridicule because of his injunctions against the ehop men. This was less offensive, however, than the labor editor's reference to industrial "ciphers."

Judge Ross berated and censured the labor editor for 45 minutes before sentence. When the Press editor was sentenced the court merely read his opinion.

APPRENTICE FAILURES.

Chicago, June 2.—The American Concrete Institute scores the practice of vocational schools, which expect boys to develop into skilled craftsmen with a few months' training and into beautifully engraved diplomas.

Failure in the habits of scholastic training still dominant in the direction of the vocational schools, is the basic reason, let the students fall where they may."

The contractor must be able to train his student with his few months' training, and "the student have refused to interest themselves in the product of the public school training classes, and have insisted that the apprentice must serve his full time on the job, whether he has preliminary training or not," says this publication.

WARS ON LABOR SEEKERS

Columbia, S. C., June 2.—Governor McLeod believes the way to hold negro labor in this state is not to inquire into the cause of their leaving, but to jail every one who aids them in leaving. The state executive has notified all police officers to arrest every agent soliciting labor from outside the state or collect from them a state labor and convict license tax of $3,500 each.

GOVERNMENT BY GUN

(From the Australian Worker.)

How the Tory loves the constitution—when the public is listening! How gravely he reverences the principles of democracy—when there is an audience to be deluded!

But get him by himself, and flatter him into a sense of security, so that he yields to the temptation of speaking the truth, and how differently he talks then!

The Tory babbling his true thoughts soon lets you know that what he really believes in is government by the gun.

If he could safely do it he would wipe out parliamentary institutions tomorrow, and smash all the ballot boxes in the country.

The rule of the majority is an idea detestful to him, for the Tory belongs to a class numerically few, and is firmly convinced that it is the traditional right of that few to hold the many in subjection.

And what is there so reliable for repressive purposes as the gun?

He concedes the vote because he is compelled to do so. The pressure from the gun forces it from him. But all the time he is longing for an excuse to shoot in the franchise and, levelling a lethal weapon at your head, cry out: "Hands up!"

Let us make no misapprehension in Australia. There are Mussolinis in our midst. This country contains men who would break the power of labor with the gun if they dared.

BALLOT IS USELESS UNDER MUSSOLINI

New York, June 2.—Premier Mussolini has promised suffrage to certain classes of women in Italy, but of what value is this when Mussolini's power rests on the destruction of democracy? asks Max D. Danish, managing editor of Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

"Mussolini and his black shirts did not gain their dictatorial power in Italy by the virtue of suffrage," says the labor editor. "They came into it via the obliteration of every vestige of democracy, the burning of labor temples, the wrecking of labor printing presses, and by the application of as bloody a terror as ever disgraced the history of the Dark Ages in Hungary.

"To Mussolini and his followers parliament, suffrage and representative government in general is a bad word for scorn and contempt. Mussolini has defiantly stated it from the floor of the chamber in Rome, feeling for the while quite secure behind the guard of the Fascisti hypocrite. What does suffrage mean to them, anyway? They are engaged in ridding Italy of the labor movement, of every vote in protest, and they have well-nigh succeeded in accomplishing their bloody task.

"Mussolini can well afford to promise the limited blessings of suffrage to a handful of Italian women after he has succeeded in taking away the vote and voice from the rest of the population of Italy who dared to disagree with his black-shirted views. Therein lies the irony of the situation."

PLEAD FOR AMNESTY.

Washington, June 2.—Governors, college presidents, editors, lawyers, clergymen and other prominent citizens have petitioned President Harding to release 52 prisoners convicted under war-time laws.

The governors include Hunt of Arizona, Sweet of Colorado, Davis of Kansas, Dixon of Montana, and Walton of Oklahoma. Among the educators are college presidents Butler of Columbia, Meiklejohn of Amherst, Stratton of Worcester Polytechnic institute, Hutchins of Grinnell college, Wallace of Knox college, Bryn Mawr college, Swarthmore college, Temple university, Goucher college, and Catholic university. Other signers are William Allen White, Kansas editor; Oswald Garrison, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York; Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick of the Union Theological seminary; Miss Julia Lathrop, former chief of the federal children's bureau and Frank P. Walsh, of the Harvard law school, son-in-law of former President Wilson.

COMPANY "UNION" FAILS

Altoona, Pa., June 2.—These are troublous times for General Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad and his company "union."

The latest explosion is because of a hand-picked delegation who journeyed to Philadelphia, where they conferred with officials of the railroad. Later it was announced that shop men would be "permitted" to vote. To date no vote has been taken and the "rump" committee is questioned on its right to speak for workers who had no voice in selecting alleged representatives.

NEW SOUTHERN NEGRO INSISTS ON JUSTICE

Charlotte, N. C., June 2.—The negro born in the new south, schooled in the white man's language, mathematics, reasoning and equations, is responsible for the changing attitude of the north because he refuses to labor all year and then be told he is indebted to the plantation owner.

The above summarises views of W. P. Evans, influential negro, writing in the Charlotte Observer on a movement that is being discussed throughout the south.

The writer says the negro loves the south and he belongs here, but "on plantation after plantation" the negro tenant farmer, together with his wife and all the family, work from January to Christmas on the promise that he is to receive a third of the cotton crop for his labor.

"Around Christmas time the poor laborer stands outside the commissary awaiting for his portion of the crop with which to buy his wife a new dress, and his children shoes and clothes. His boss man says to him: 'Well, Sandy, you did a little better this year, you've paid all of your back debt and don't owe but $119 on this year's debt.'

"The negro is not shown by an itemized statement what this year's debt is for.

"He returns to his shanty, crestfallen and discouraged, to greet the anxious hearts of his naked and barefoot children around Christmas time.

"They must show the new negro, by itemized statements, what makes this year's debt so high, and many cases the landlord being unused to this new demand, deems it impudence on the part of the new negro resistance to up, and the negro, conscious of his weak standing, falls back on the power of trade resistance and lays over a year that farm is vacant and the negro is in the iron works of Pennsylvania."

NON-UNION MINERS APPEAL TO U. S. BOARD

Washington, June 2.—"Help us to be free American wage earners" is the plea of a large number of non-union Kentucky coal miners, who have filed an appeal with the United States coal commission. The petition succeeds every charge made by the United Mine Workers against anti-union coal mines of Kentucky and West Virginia.

In their petition the Kentucky miners state:

"The coal operators force us, through their personal agents, to sign a contract that we will not join the United Mine Workers of America. If we do not sign the contract, then we are forced to work for less and forced out of the coal company's houses.

"The coal operators employ gun men and private police to intimidate us miners if we join any labor organization and discharge us. They make statements in the presence of the miners that they are well pleased with the conditions imposed upon us by the coal operators and they run gun men and private spies. The statements made by coal operators and their private hirelings compel us absolutely submit to. We are far from satisfied. In fact, we are slaves under the conditions imposed upon us.

"Again we ask the United States coal commission to help us to be free American wage workers. We humbly pray you to help us restore democracy for all American producers in the mountain districts of northeastern and eastern Kentucky. This is our prayer; please help us."

ABSENTEE VOTERS' BILL.

Harrisburg, Pa., June 2.—Governor Pinchot has signed the absentee voters' bill, which provides a system whereby persons absent from their voting districts on election day.

Special envelopes for the return of the marked ballot and affidavit of absentment voter are provided. Ballots must be returned to the proper authorities on or before the day of election by registered mail. The envelopes cannot be opened prior to the meeting of the return board to canvas the vote.

THE KIND GARY LIKES.

New York, June 2.—Judge Gary addresses the "working classes" of southern Europe, where wages are low and wants are few. In his address to members of the American iron and steel institute he expressed admiration for "industry, frugality, economy and saving." The judge would be pleased if congress lets down the bars that this element may come to the United States.

HUGE BEET SUGAR PROFITS

New York, June 2.—President Duval of the American beet sugar company told stockholders that between April 1 and May 16 there was a profit of $2.23 on a 100-pound bag of sugar. This compared with a profit of 25 cents on sugar sold during the same period in 1922.

GARY'S SHORT MEMORY SUPPORTS 12-HOUR DAY

Washington, June 2.—"It is most surprising that Mr. Gary's memory is so short," says President Gompers, commenting on the claim that steel employes "like" the 12-hour day.

"It is not so long ago," said President Gompers, "that in the neighborhood of 100,000 employes in the steel industry ceased work to secure better conditions and their main contention was for the eight-hour day.

In reply to the claim that prices would be increased 15 per cent, President Gompers says that according to this reasoning, "the economic conditions of the employes in the steel industry must be sacrificed in the interest of prices and profits.

"Not a thought of the souls of men, only the hope that can be wrung out of the overworked and underpaid employes. It is a matter of industrial history that when the long work day was reduced to eight, the productive capacity of the selling price of the product was invariably increased.

The steel employers' statement that there is not sufficient labor to supply three shifts a day is declared "a plausible that should shame even its authors.

"If the United States steel corporation and the other steel plants would but pay living wages, policy holders and all the workers they need—if they do need them at the present time. Only a few days ago 20,000 men applied for work on the steamship Leviathan, where only 1,100 are needed. A few days ago 3,000 men and women stood in line, some of them all night, at the District building in this city to make application for a few jobs and there will be few laborers and charwomen were needed.

Mr. Gary must also have forgotten that a little more than a year ago there were approximately 6,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States. If he had any intention of introducing the eight-hour day he would have done it then. But he did not, and he waits until now to take advantage of the propaganda that is being broadcasted for months in favor of letting down the bars to immigration from southeastern Europe.

"It must believe that the 12-hour day is an institution which the steel industry never intends to give up. This is the evidence in the report of the special investigating committee of which Mr. Gary is the chairman."

LASHING OF CONVICTS IS ENDED IN FLORIDA

Tallahassee, Fla., June 2.—Florida has revolutionized her treatment of prisoners by abolishing the lash and also the prohibition of sending them to camps. No leasing of convicts shall be permitted after the first of next year, and all existing contracts must end.

One county, however, may turn its prisoners over to another county for work on the roads or such work may be turned over to the state road department for similar work.

To emphasize the position against corporal punishment convict wardens must hereafter give bond for $2,500 while guards must be bonded for $1,000. They are made subject to suit for damages for any abuse of authority.

Attorneys for Higginbotham, the convict whipping boss accused of causing the death of young Tabert of North Dakota, are resorting to every technicality for their client. It would appear that the northern man's case is also being used in favor of the whipping boss, as five terrified negroes, all former convicts, appealed to the sheriff for protection. The negroes claimed that their presence in the camp where the Putnam turpentine company, at whose camp Tabert died, has large holdings, would be filled with danger to them.

KANSAS COURT HAS FAILED

Topeka, Kan., June 2.—The "can't-strike" law and the industrial court of that state have failed, declared Governor Davis in an address to church men in this city.

"The industrial court can not function as a court and is a useless investigation," the governor said. "It has created friction but has made a football of politics."

WIN ANTI-UNION SHOP.

New York, June 2.—After a three-days' strike organized furriers secured an agreement with the Otto Kahn company, a representative firm among the people that the United States supreme court is assuming functions and powers that are alarming and not contemplated in the constitution.

Senator Ladd suggested legislation under which "no act of congress should be declared unconstitutional unless by a vote of eight members of the court, and no act of any sovereign state legislature should be declared unconstitutional by a vote of less than seven members."

STEEL BARONS O.K. THEMSELVES WILL NOT CHANGE 12-HOUR DAY

New York, June 2.—A committee of steel manufacturers have voted that there is nothing wrong with their 12-hour day.

This announcement was made by Judge Gary at the annual meeting of the American iron and steel institute. Prior to his report, the judge solemnly declared "could be controversy" could be settled fairly except in accordance with principles of the Christian religion."

He defended the Bible from the standpoint of "simple, plain business sense," and then read the verdict of hard-boiled employers who doom thousands of workers to the inhuman 12-hour day and double shift.

Following a meeting with President Harding at the White House several months ago when the 12-hour day was discussed, Judge Gary appointed the following committee to consider the question:

Judge Gary of New York, chairman, board of directors, steel trust.

James A. Farrell of New York, president, steel trust.

Eugene G. Grace of Bethlehem, Pa., president, Bethlem steel corporation.

L. E. Block of Chicago, vice president, Inland steel company.

John A. Topping of New York, chairman, board of directors, Republic iron and steel company.

A. C. Dinkey of New York, president, Midvale steel company.

Willis L. King of Pittsburgh, Pa., vice president, Jones & Laughlin, steel manufacturers.

James Burden of Troy, N. Y., president, Eastern steel company.

James A. Campbell of Youngstown, Ohio, president, Youngstown sheet and tube company.

These employers did not overlook the opportunity for free immigration propaganda. They say an eight-hour day means 60,000 additional workers, and these can not be found in this country. A short time ago, when 6,000,000 unemployed were in this country, the steel employers had other excuses. The report states that there is less fatigue in a 12-hour steel mill than in most eight-hour industries. Then the steel barons throw this bouquet at themselves:

"There is no concern of importance connected with the iron and steel industry in the United States that would not be willingly permit employes to exert themselves to a point where they would be injured physically, mentally or morally."

After these employers presented their last defense of the long work day, they declare the 12-hour day can not be abolished "at this time." This is an anchor to windward, for use when steel employes organize and smash the 12-hour day by the force of their economic power. In that event Judge Gary and associates will accept the change as gracefully as have other eight-hour opponents.

The charge that the 12-hour day denies a home life to steel workers is an awkward one for the steel barons to meet, but this is how they gloss over a physical impossibility:

"Where the 12-hour day is in force, the large majority of cases, 12-hour men devote less time to their families than the employe working less hours is, perhaps, questionable."

The report is an excellent argument in favor of the eight-hour day because it notifies steel employes, and the country as a whole, that the steel barons will not yield an inch until they are forced to.

HARD COAL MONOPOLY CONTROLLED BY FEW

New York, June 2.—While attorneys for coal owners are using the miners' union as a smoke screen, former Senator Frelinghuysen of New Jersey announces that he is "organizing a coal consumers' league to curb profiteering."

"The increase in anthracite prices since 1900 has been staggering," he said. "Control of anthracite is in the hands of a few companies. Eight companies produce three-fourths of the output and these same companies control 90 per cent of the underground reserves.

"With the eight companies are affiliated eight railroads serving the anthracite fields. The interests controlling these companies and railroads secure three profits—one on mining, another on wholesaling and a third on transportation.

"The freight rates charged by the railroads carrying coal also are exorbitant and should be reduced to a fair level. The interstate commerce commission should act on them at once."

The former senator said he favors regulation only as a last resort, but believes that anthracite competition produces prices the American public will insist that congress enact legislation limiting the publicity of investments and profits.

PANICS DON'T HURT BAKING INDUSTRY

New York, June 2.—A financial publication in this city says that bakery corporations are immune from periods of depression, and that profits continue regardless of trade conditions in other industries.

"Baking company stocks are attracting favorable attention among investors," says this publication. "Bread is a daily necessity of the people. Baking companies have reaped substantial conditions to the benefit of the customer and themselves.

"The baking industry ranks eighth in the nation today. It is one of the few industries that thrive during periods of depression, as well as prosperous times. It is a cash business. Inventory losses are practically unknown. These conditions permit the baking companies to increase earnings and extend their business even during the period of general business depression following the war. There has been a continued absorption of bakeries by stocks for investment account."

The above is another indication of the superiority of the Ward bread trust, which has locked out its union bakery workers and is attempting to operate on the anti-union basis. The concern's own financial report is the best proof of its unusual prosperity.

GAS TEST DISCOVERED.

Washington, June 2.—The United States bureau of mines announces that it has discovered a method of detecting to simplify the detecting of carbon monoxide, most insidious and deadly of poisons.

It is possible now to discover within three minutes the extent that a person has been affected by carbon monoxide gas through the blood of the victim, even after he is well on other fields where dreaded gas is a menace. With this quick diagnosing it is possible to administer the proper emergency treatment.

WOULD CHECK U. S. COURT

Los Angeles, Cal., June 2.—In an address before the City club United States Senator Ladd of North Dakota said that the conservative fear among the people that the United States supreme court is assuming functions and powers that are alarming and not contemplated in the constitution.

Senator Ladd suggested legislation under which "no act of congress should be declared unconstitutional unless by a vote of eight members of the court, and no act of any sovereign state legislature should be declared unconstitutional by a vote of less than seven members."

PENNSY RAILROAD DEFIES LABOR BOARD

Chicago, June 2.—President Rea of the Pennsylvania railroad has notified the railroad labor board that the company will not accept the decision that organized railroad clerks shall have the right to select their own representatives in dealing with the question of employe representatives.

The company takes the same stand it did against organized shop men, when they demanded the right to vote for representatives of their choice, rather than the company's hand picked "slate." This is the deft of the rail executives.

"We conceive it to be not only the right but also the duty of the management to select those with whom to deal with its employes which will, in its judgment, enable it to operate efficiently and economically, with justice to the employes, even though the labor board, in its advisory capacity, may not approve of the adoption of that policy."

This stand was reaffirmed by E. H. Sennes, counsel for the road: "We claim the inherent right at any time, anywhere, regardless of the question of majority or minority representation, to negotiate with our own employes."

The railroad labor board has ruled that the company has no more right to dictate to workers who shall represent them, than the workers have to dictate to stockholders who shall represent them in the annual stockholders' meeting.

The company, of course, can not grasp this reasoning because it classes its workers as a commodity while its stockholders are human beings.

GIFTS TO RAILROADS PAID FOR BY DONORS

Washington, June 2.—"The railroads have received a gift of 155,000,000 acres of land from the government and the companies have received gifts of terminals and rights of way from municipalities," says the farmers' national council. "Now efforts were made for the specific purpose of keeping down the capitalization of the railroads and thus enable their profits to be kept down, so as to encourage agriculture and other legitimate business. The railroads seek to capitalize the increase in selling price of the land over the price they paid therefor, or the reproduction cost of the land to them. This increase is estimated at billions of dollars.

"The interstate commerce commission is now making tentative valuation of the railroads, and the representatives of the railroads are actually trying to have the commission accept theories of valuation which would permit them to include in their capitalization all these increases plus surplus earnings which have been put back into the road.

"It is stated that the difference between the theories of valuation advanced by the carriers and some public authorities amount to about $10,000,000,000 in the valuation of the railroads."

SEEKING PAY RAISE.

Detroit, Mich., June 2.—Increases in wages of approximately 40 per cent for 600,000 members throughout the country have been demanded by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes. Increases have been granted this class of workers in the majority of their contracts have been filed with the railroad labor board.

At the brotherhood headquarters in this city it was stated that a recent survey showed two out of every three maintenance of way men to be in debt amounting to $100 or more, and that every seven has a bank account and that one half of them are without life insurance.

During the last year, it is declared, the average wage earner has spent $28 for clothing, while 6.3 cents a meal for every person in the family was the average food allowance of the average worker.

'SHINERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, June 2.—A wage rate of $1 an hour has been established by Metal Polishers' union No. 8, The old rate was 85 cents. The polishers will extend the $1 rate throughout this competitive district.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Detroit, Mich., June 2.—Electrical Workers' union No. 17 has raised wages from 96 cents an hour to $1.06.